
10.04.145 Onychectomy (declawing) prohibited.

A. No person, licensed medical professional or otherwise, shall perform or cause to be performed an onychectomy (declawing) or flexor tendonectomy procedure by any means on any animal within the City, except when necessary for a therapeutic purpose. "Therapeutic purpose" means the necessity to address the medical condition of the animal, such as an existing or recurring illness, infection, disease, injury or abnormal condition in the claw that compromises the animal's health. "Therapeutic purpose" does not include cosmetic or aesthetic reasons, or reasons of convenience in keeping or handling the animal. In the event that an onychectomy or flexor tendonectomy procedure is performed on any animal within the City in violation of this section, each of the following persons shall be guilty of a violation of this section: (1) the person or persons performing the procedure, (2) all persons assisting in the physical performance of the procedure, and (3) the animal guardian that ordered the procedure.

B. Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined in an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or be imprisoned for a period of six months, or both. Violation of this section shall be a misdemeanor but may be charged in the discretion of the citing officer as an infraction. (Ord. 7119-NS § 1, 2009)

Compile Chapter

The Berkeley Municipal Code is current through Ordinance 7334-NS, passed May 20, 2014.

Disclaimer: The City Clerk's Office has the official version of the Berkeley Municipal Code. Users should contact the City Clerk's Office for ordinances passed subsequent to the ordinance cited above.

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